

Biophilic Cities Network

Cultivating Nature in the City



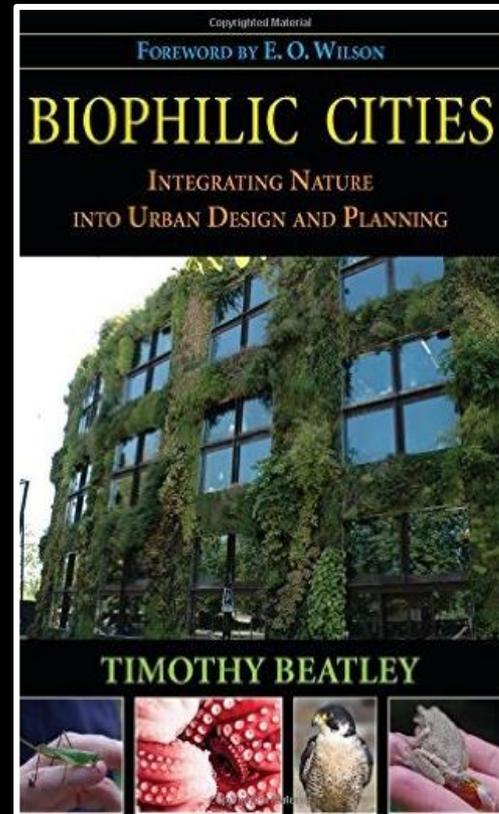
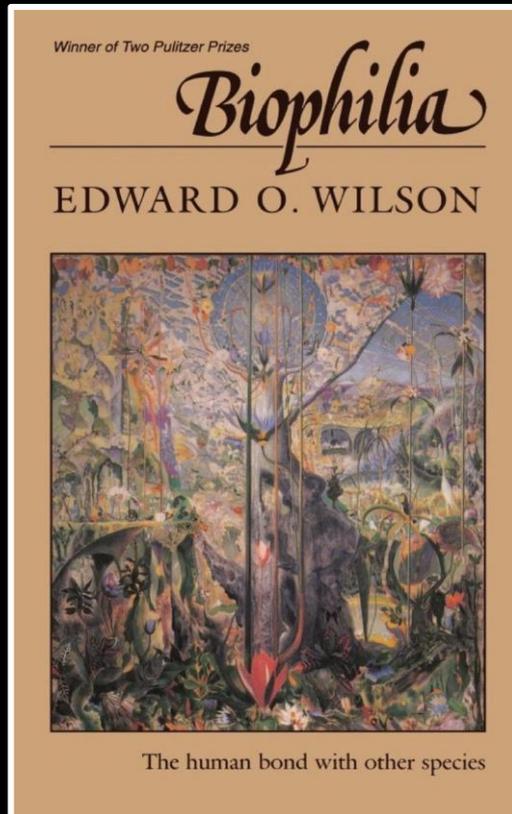
Open Space, Environment, and Sustainability Committee



Lucia Athens, Chief Sustainability Officer

Leah Haynie, Urban Forest Division, Development Services

May 26th, 2016



Q: What is
Biophilia?

A: Humans
and Nature



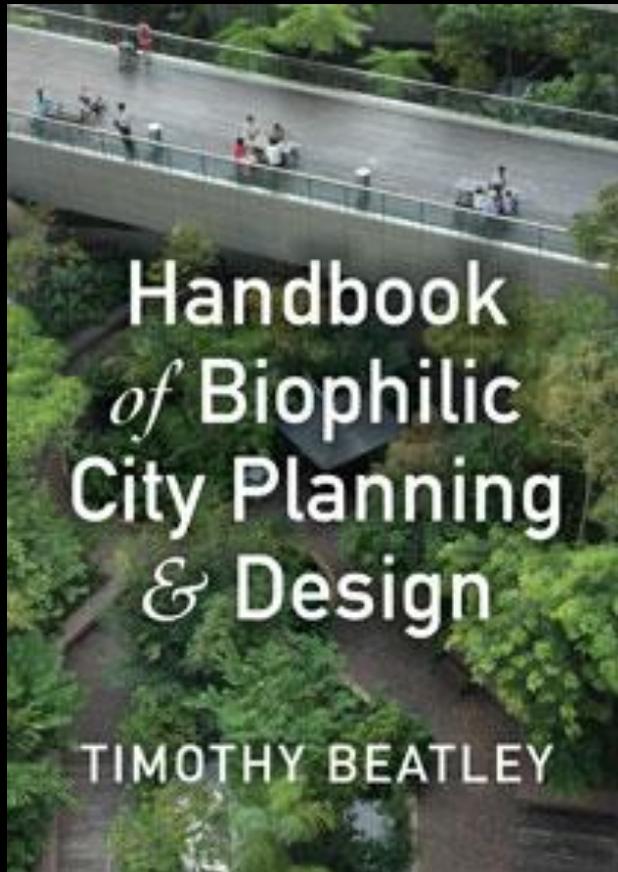
Q: What are the benefits of nature in a city?

A: Humans are statistically healthier, happier, and more productive with regular access to nature.



Q: What is a Biophilic City?

A: A city that places nature at the core of its design and planning



1. **San Francisco, California**
2. **Portland, Oregon**
3. **Milwaukee, Wisconsin**
4. **Phoenix, Arizona**
5. **Singapore**
6. **Birmingham, United Kingdom**
7. **Wellington, New Zealand**
8. **Montréal, Quebec**
9. **Vitoria-Gasteiz, Spain**
10. **Rio de Janeiro, Brazil**
11. **Oslo, Norway**

Biophilic Cities Network



Partner City Feature: Singapore

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- An aerial photograph of a modern, multi-story building with a glass facade. The building features a prominent green roof with a wavy, undulating design. The surrounding area is lush with tropical vegetation, including palm trees and dense greenery. In the foreground, a road with several cars is visible, along with a parking lot. The overall scene is bright and vibrant, suggesting a sustainable and green urban environment.
- **Adopt an official resolution to become a Partner City**
 - **Pay a one-time fee of \$250**
 - **Prepare a Biophilic Cities Narrative**
 - **Commit to monitoring 5 indicators**

Becoming a Partner City

- 1. Number of trees planted annually**
- 2. Tree canopy coverage**
- 3. Residential units within ½ mile of park/open space**
- 4. Environmental Integrity Index**
- 5. Amount of permanently preserved Land by Category**

5 Biophilic City Indicators

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- A scenic view of a river in Austin, Texas, with a city skyline in the background and a child sitting on the bank in the foreground. The river is calm, reflecting the sky and the buildings. A bridge is visible in the distance. A child in a red shirt is sitting on the bank, looking towards the water. A bird is flying over the water.
- **Share communications related to Nature in the City of Austin**
 - **Training and Conference Calls**
 - **Assist partner initiatives, organizations, and cities**
 - **Host Biophilic City Delegations**

Additional Partner City Opportunities

Core Principle

Integrate nature into the City

A beautiful system of outdoor places for recreation and environmental protection will define Austin as a world-class city.

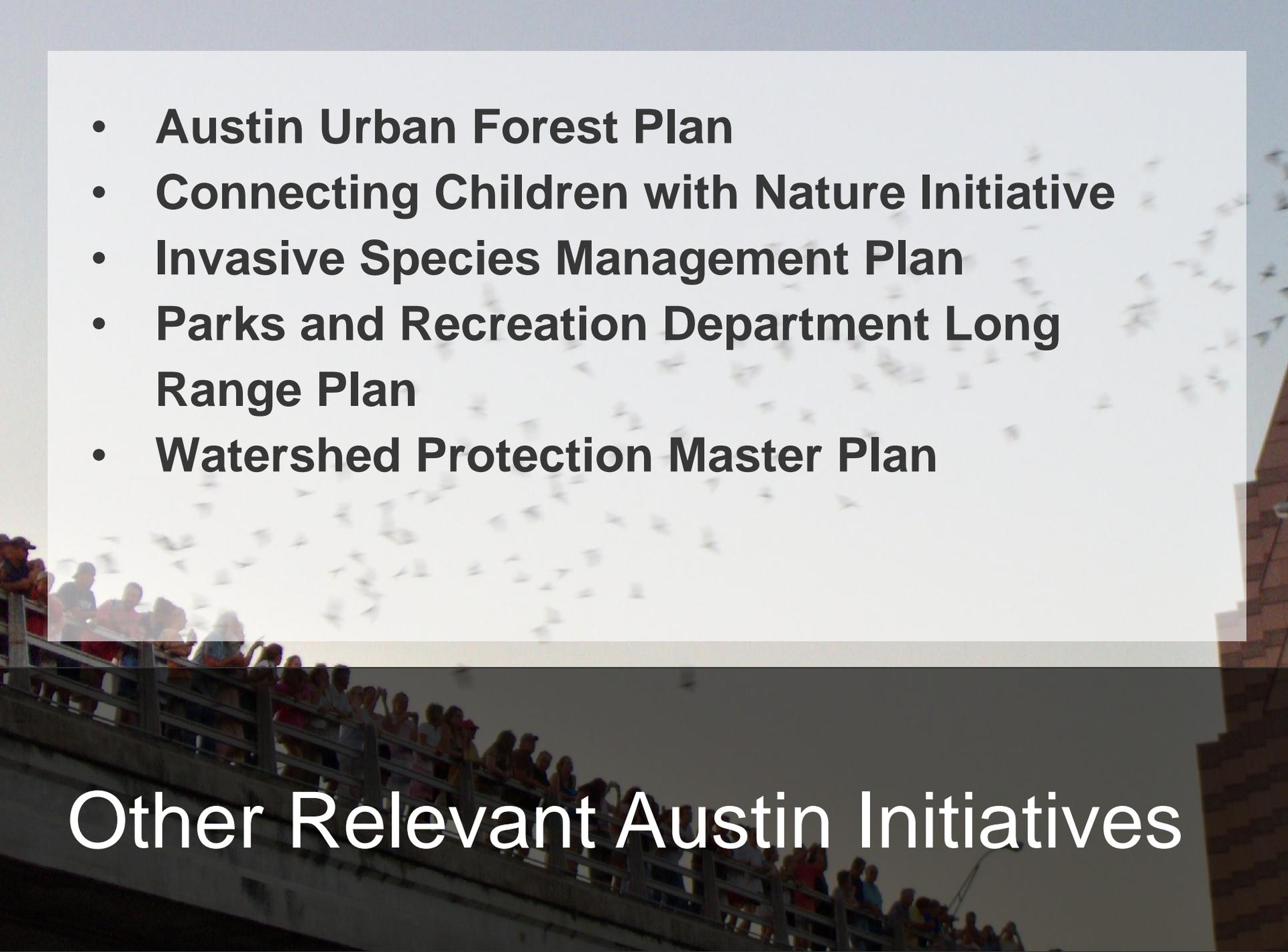
IMAGINEAUSTON

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN
Vibrant. Livable. Connected.

City Council Adopted
June 15, 2012

By strengthening our “green infrastructure” — parks, the urban forest, urban trails, greenways, rivers, creeks, lakes, gardens, urban agriculture, open spaces, and wildlife habitat and the relationships between them and the rest of the city— Austin can protect the natural environment and enhance recreational opportunities.

(p.10 of Imagine Austin)

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- A crowd of people is seen from behind, standing on a balcony or walkway, looking up at a large flock of birds flying in the sky. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting a sunny day. The birds are scattered across the upper half of the frame, creating a sense of movement and activity. The people are silhouetted against the bright sky, and their attention is focused on the birds above.
- **Austin Urban Forest Plan**
 - **Connecting Children with Nature Initiative**
 - **Invasive Species Management Plan**
 - **Parks and Recreation Department Long Range Plan**
 - **Watershed Protection Master Plan**

Other Relevant Austin Initiatives

Staff Recommendation

Support efforts to integrate nature into the City and officially support the City of Austin joining the Biophilic Cities Network.

Thank You

Lucia Athens, Office of Sustainability
Leah Haynie, Urban Forest Division, DSD

Nature in the City - Austin is on Facebook
www.facebook.com/naturallyatx